

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 19, 2005, has been received and considered. Applicant appreciates that the election of species has been withdrawn and that claims 4, 6-10, 15, 19-29, 32-34 and 36-42 have been indicated as being allowable or containing allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 9-10, 15-18, 20, 32-33 and 42 have been amended, claims 43-48 added, and claims 2, 11-14, 21 30-31, and 35 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 112 for lacking antecedent basis for "the rigid part." This claim has been amended to depend from claim 16, which recites "a rigid part."

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,108,950 to Ruvang et al. ("Ruvang"). Ruvang, however, discloses a different lock that is designed for a different purpose and requires different spacing requirements in the assembly to operate. Ruvang is concerned with applying a biasing force against the tooth point to continually tighten the fit of the point on the nose. Accordingly, the flange section 80b is biased with a spring 36 that axially expands the lock to drive the wedge-shaped connector member 34 farther into the hole to tighten the assembly.

The present lock is designed to have a constant axial length and to hold the wear member on the base free of substantial axial pressure. As a result, the space requirements for the lock and the use the lock are markedly different as

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compared to Ruvang. Claim 1 recites: "the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an axial depth that is the same in each of the release and locking positions so as to position the lock in each said hole when the lock is installed in the opening free of substantial axial pressure." This is a construction that is not disclosed by Ruvang and is contrary to its purpose.

It is believed that all of the pending claims are now allowable. Applicants respectfully request a notice to this effect.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Steven P. Schad
Registration No. 32,550

ESCO Corporation
2141 NW 25th Avenue
PO Box 10123
Portland, OR 97210
(503) 778-6225

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